

**MINUTES OF THE
HEALTH SYSTEM REFORM TASK FORCE**

Monday, October 13, 2008 – 8:00 a.m. – Room C250 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Sheldon L. Killpack, Senate Chair
Rep. David Clark, House Chair
Sen. Gregory S. Bell
Sen. Gene Davis
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Jackie Biskupski
Rep. Bradley M. Daw
Rep. Patrick Painter

Members Absent:

Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Rep. David Litvack
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst
Ms. Catherine J. Dupont, Associate General Counsel
Mr. John T. Nielsen, Advisor to the Governor on
Health System Reform
Ms. Phalin L. Flowers, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Task Force Business

Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 8:13 a.m. He excused Rep. Litvack and Rep. Newbold from the meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Killpack moved to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Health Insurance Reform -- Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan

Dr. Daniel Johnson, Jr., M.D., Consumers for Health Care Choices, explained why the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP) is a model for health care reform.

3. Health Insurance Reform -- Reports from Input Groups

Dr. Mark Bair, Utah Medical Association (UMA) and member of the Providers Input Group, distributed and discussed "UMA Healthcare Reform Plan." The plan addresses cost, quality, coverage, and financial reform.

Dr. Richard Sperry, Associate Vice President for Health Sciences, University of Utah, introduced the Hospital Input Group's proposal for health care reform.

Mr. Greg Poulsen, Senior Vice President, Intermountain Health Care and member of the Hospital Input Group, distributed and presented "Healthcare Coverage Coalition: Utah Healthcare Reform Proposal." He noted that, although the Utah Hospital Association believes that the principles of its original reform proposal remain sound, in light of fiscal and political realities it is supportive of the more incremental approach outlined in the proposal.

Mr. John T. Nielsen, Advisor to the Governor on Health System Reform, noted that it would be helpful if hospitals, providers, and insurers provided a list of reforms that could be handled simply by administrative rule.

Mr. Gordon Crabtree, Chief Financial Officer, University Health Care, University of Utah, spoke to the Task Force about ways to simplify health care administration, which in turn would reduce costs for insurers and providers.

Mr. Lou Swain, Co-chair, Community Input Group, introduced the Community Input Group's comments. He said affordability, transparency, and portability are the three most important items needed for health care reform.

Ms. Judi Hilman, Executive Director, Utah Health Policy Project and member of the Community Input Group, distributed and discussed "Proposal Framework and Feedback from the Community Workgroup of the Health System Reform Task Force."

4. Other Business

Mr. Alan Pruhs, Associate Director, Association for Utah Community Health, explained that in order to ensure continuity of patient care Community Health Centers do not use volunteer providers like charity care centers. He noted that recent federal legislation extends federal tort claim protection to volunteers at community health centers and indicated that over 1,100 physicians in the state already participate in a systematized approach to charity care.

Ms. Tomi Ossana, Executive Director, Utah Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool (HIPUtah), spoke about HIPUtah. She noted that funding for the pool was reduced by \$800,000 during the recent special session. Although the pool currently has more than a six month reserve, it will need to request additional funding in the future.

5. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Clark adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m.